

Verbal Report on Library Programs and Activities – Board of Library Trustees 10/4/21

Gazebo

In June, the Board provided feedback on two design plans for the City Plaza Park Gazebo Enhancement Project. The Parks and Recreation Department considered the Board's feedback, along with community input gathered through an online survey, and recommended the approval of design Option B to the City Council.

In 2016, voters passed Measure R, a measure that, in part, prohibits substantial building, construction, reconstruction, or development to dedicated parkland except pursuant to an ordinance. The changes in Design Option B are considered to be substantial making the project subject to this measure. To move forward, Parks and Recreation proposed, and Council has adopted, an ordinance allowing changes to be made according to those described in design option B. The design is expected to be finalized in the Spring of 2022 and construction to begin in the Summer of 2022.

Grants

The Library has received a number of grants recently.

Last week, the Pacific Library Partnership approved a grant for "Checkout and Code Kits." This grant, the first written by Northside Librarian Rachel Hughes, will allow the purchase of 30 laptops that will be checked out with dedicated curriculums for a variety of coding languages. All ages are welcome to use these kits, but the primary focus will be to engage kids 18 and under in developing an understanding of coding skills through them. While there are many coding classes available in the Bay Area, the cost can be a barrier for those who are interested. The coding kits from this grant will make these vital skills more accessible for our community.

A second grant is a grant provided by Kaiser Permanente and facilitated by the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends to improve the Library's capacity to serve individuals of all abilities. Two trainings will focus on the need to provide accessible programming for all patrons. The first training focuses on universal design, the concept that spaces and services should be created for the use of all people regardless of abilities, disabilities, or other characteristics. The second training will teach staff how to present sensory story times. This specific type of story time is designed towards the needs of children with sensory processing issues. Providing this program will ensure that more children are able to enjoy our services and more parents feel supported by the Library.

The final update is for a grant received from the Pacific Library Partnership to create a training around equity, diversity, and inclusion. Library staff will coordinate four workshops for local libraries. Two are screenings and conversations around the film, "Cracking the Codes: the System of Racial Inequity." Staff will also organize a talk from an expert in organizational EDI development and a workshop on how EDI principles can be incorporated into our libraries. We are excited that the initiative of our staff will lead to more libraries discussing these important topics and making changes from those conversations.

Board Photos

The City is asking for boards and commissions to provide a group photo for the annual City calendar. They recognize that COVID is still affecting our ability to gather, so it may require some creativity to make that happen. It is requested that the Board provide feedback to the City Librarian on their interest on gathering for an in-person photo opportunity. The deadline to submit a photo would be the end of October.

Staffing

At the end of September, interviews were held for our remaining Adult Services and Youth Services librarians. We hope to announce the results of those two recruitments in the next few weeks.

The initial round of interviews for the Assistant City Librarian were held on September 30. It is anticipated that this process will be completed in the next several weeks.

Over the course of a year, the Library has been able to fill 15 vacant positions. It's been difficult having staffing gaps during the pandemic, but as we move towards reopening the Library, these recruitments have put us in a much stronger position to succeed. The staff that has been with us over the past year and a half have shown their dedication and commitment to this library time and time again. And the new staff are bringing in fresh ideas and enthusiasm which we believe will mesh perfectly with the creativity and passion that our staff have always displayed. With a full team, it is going to be very exciting seeing what this amazing team will do.